

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 46, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

Clontech Human Multiple Tissue Northern (MTN) Blot (Catalog #7760-1), Human MTN Blot IV (Catalog #7766-1), Human Fetal MTN Blot II (#7756-1), Human Muscle MTN Blot (#7765-1) and Human Cancer Cell Line MTN Blot (#7757-1) were used to analyze the tissue specificity of gene expression. Northern blot was performed according to the standard method, using the BamHI-XbaI fragment (from position 3709 to position 4337 of SEQ ID NO: 3) and the NdeI 1.2 kb-#1 probe (from position 3709 to position 4337 of SEQ ID NO:3) as the probe (see Figure 7 for the position of the probe), and 25 ng of the DNA fragment was labeled with α -³²P dCTP using a Megaprime DNA labeling kit (Amersham, Catalog RPN1607). These MTN Blots were prehybridized in 5 ml of the ExpressHyb hybridization solution (Clontech, Catalog #8015-2) at 68°C for 30 minutes, and then hybridized with 1×10^7 cpm of the labeled probe also in 5 ml of the ExpressHyb hybridization solution (2×10^6 cpm/ ml) at 68°C for 2 hours. The filters were washed three times in 2 x SSC (0.3 M NaCl, 0.03 M sodium citrate (pH 7.0))/ 0.05% SDS at room temperature for 10 minutes each, washed twice more in 0.1 x SSC/ 0.1% SDS at 50°C for 15 minutes each, exposed on FUJI imaging plates overnight, and analyzed by a FUJI BAS2000. As shown in ~~Figure~~Figures 5 and 6, strong expression of the approximately 8 kb transcription product was detected in the heart, placenta, skeletal muscle, fetal brain, fetal lung, fetal kidney, small intestine, bladder, stomach, prostate, HeLa S3 cells, lung cancer A549 cells, and melanoma G361 cells. However, the expression was either absent or weak in the lung, lymphoid tissues (spleen and thymus), and cell lines (lanes 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of blot C). In the heart, liver, kidney, and fetal liver, a 5.5 kb transcription product was expressed.